



DERBY OPERA COMPANY NEWS LETTER

THE FULL MONTY

12 – 17 May 2008

LAUNCH EVENING

11 December 2007

DOC is thrilled to announce its next show for May 2008, *The Full Monty*. This musical is based on the popular film and was chosen to reflect a way forward for the company, as it can be produced at minimal cost and has sold to at least 90% audiences for amateur societies elsewhere in the country.

To formally launch the show, we will be holding a **LAUNCH EVENING** on Tuesday, 11 December. This will take place at Chellaston School, Derby from 7.30pm. We are pleased to welcome Terry Smith as our director, who will be there with other members of the production team to talk about the production of *The Full Monty*, as well as rehearsals and auditions.

The Full Monty will be performed at the Guildhall, Derby on 12-17 May 2008. Dates of rehearsals and auditions will be announced at the launch evening. We hope to welcome many members old and new to this exciting new venture.

Questionnaire

A huge thank you to those of you who took the time to fill out the questionnaire that was sent out with the last newsletter. Please see the final page of the newsletter for details of the response.

Member's News

Carolyn Hardy is holding an exhibition of her art work at the Guildhall in Derby, on week beginning 26th November between 10am - 4.30pm. Stop by and have a look... and maybe pick up some Christmas gifts.

Who's Performing Where

Congratulations to our members who have gained principal roles in other societies productions- Sharon Cooper (*Witches of Eastwick*, Heanor Operatic Society), Jay Reynolds, Sarah Stone (*Carousel*, Belper Musical Theatre), Hilary Leam & Yvonne Taylor (*My Fair Lady*, Ripley & Alfreton Operatic Society). Jay Reynolds will also be performing professionally in *Treasure Island* at Derby Playhouse this Christmas.

A huge well done to Rachael Murphy, who as well as being a member of DOC is the musical director of the barbershop chorus 'GEM Connection.' The chorus recently came 4th out of 52 choruses at the National Championships at the BIC in Bournemouth.

Congratulations to those members who were involved in Trent Opera's production of *Follies*, which came third at the Waterford Festival at the end of September. The show also won Best Costumes, Best Lighting and Andrew Nicklin won Best Professional Director.

As usual contact Matt to let us know what you're doing so your fellow members can come and support.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner took place on November 17th at the Midland Hotel Derby, and was attended by nearly 100 members and patrons. The night was hugely enjoyable as always, and our guest speaker this year was Radio Derby's Andy Potter. Congratulations to those who were awarded NODA awards at this event: Margaret Fearn, Ann Ellis and Deane Holme (40 year bars): Nigel Taylor (30 year bar) and Andrea Sparham (20 year medal). The awards were presented by National President of NODA and DOC life member Mike Hinks.

Concerts

The concert at Kilburn Hall on November 10th was another successful evening. With the raffle and donations we raised over £1200, which is a fantastic boost of DOC in what marks a new era for the society. Thanks to all those involved, in particular Jean and Peter Gemmell who provided the venue and catering.



Pictured from Left: **Hilary Leam, Simon Theobald, Andrew Nicklin, Mark Pollard, Luke Walker, Andrew Booth, Charlotte Clement, Lynn Nelson & Emily Towle** at Kilburn Hall.

Thanks also to Sharon who's been busy arranging community concerts. As before, let her know if you would like to take part in any upcoming concerts, or if you know of any community groups who would like us to provide some entertainment. We normally just ask for a donation. Call Sharon on 07939 128456 or email sharon.cooper@stent.co.uk. The next concert will be January 14th at Chaddesden W.I. We are looking for both solos and chorus numbers- chorus numbers are likely to be used from the June concert, but solos can be new numbers.

Social Events

Watch this space for a planned Quiz Night in the New Year!

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE -

FEEDBACK - YOUR VIEWS.....AND OURS....

Bearing in mind the crisis of having to 'pull' this years show (due to the lack of interest from the general membership and certain financial issues), the response to the recent questionnaire was very disappointing, with about one quarter returned. Many thanks to the 40 of you, who did give us feedback, those of you who are acting or non acting members may be contacted personally for more detail.

Some of the basic points that came out of the exercise where.....

- **None of you want the company to die on its feet – *that's good to know!***

- There is a need to do new shows, some people are tired of being in the 'old standards' – *that's great, if they are available and you can actually get a licence! (Too many professional productions and, other societies vying for the same things!)*
- Some of you want your fellow performers to commit to all rehearsals and not just turn up 'nearer the show' or just for the actual concert– *well, it's only fair!*
- There is a difference of opinion regarding length of rehearsal period – *we do understand this, but can't please everybody all of the time!*
- Some of you think a Youth Group is needed, to grow our own members – *any volunteers to run it??*
- Of the 40 returns, about 50% of you are definitely in favour of amalgamation, and 32% are against – *there are too many groups competing for a reducing audience, what else can we do?*
- Bearing in mind the previous statement, surprisingly only 27% are in favour of a name change – *its doubtful that another group would amalgamate with us and still allow us to use our name*
- About 82% of the 40 said you would support fundraising events – *how about organising one? Any suggestions? Any volunteers? Now's your chance!*

If you haven't replied to the questionnaire request and want to comment and air your views, please do! You can either email the Editor of this newsletter on mattclay84@hotmail.com, or send your views to the Secretary, Sue Dunstall at 51 Nicola Gardens, Littleover, Derby DE23 1NQ, email s.dunstall@btinternet.com

Contact Matt on mattclay84@hotmail.com with any items you would like to see in the newsletter.

Issue 231107